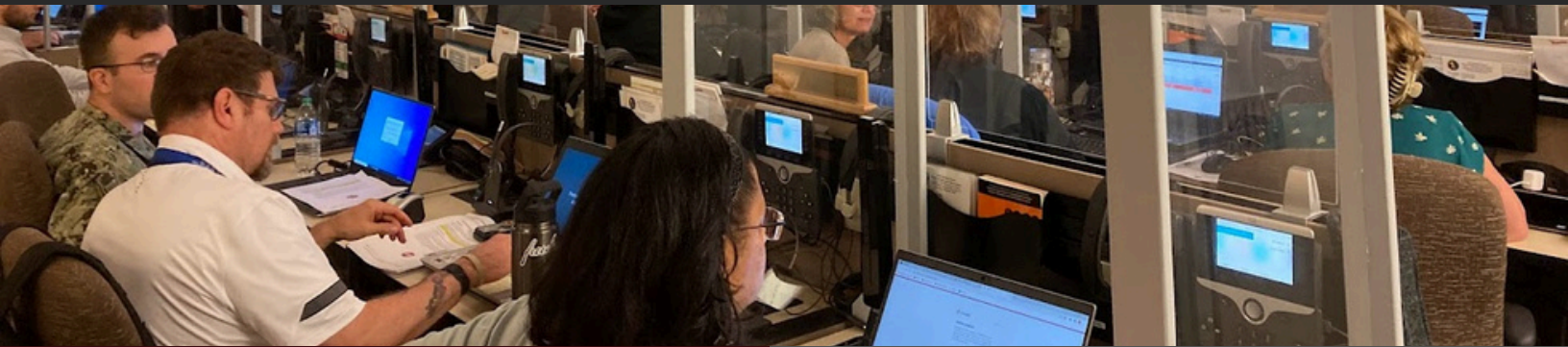




THE DISASTER DISPATCH

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM
THE ANNE ARUNDEL OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Preeti Emrick, JD, CHEC



September is National Preparedness Month, a crucial time to prioritize safety and resilience. Unexpected emergencies can strike anywhere, any time, and being prepared can make all the difference in protecting yourself, your loved ones, and your community. Whether it's a natural disaster, power outage, or other crisis, it's essential to have a plan in place. Take this opportunity to create or review your household emergency plan, gather essential supplies, and [learn lifesaving skills](#). By investing time in preparedness now, you'll be better equipped to handle challenges when they arise. Remember, a prepared community is a stronger community. When residents are ready to respond to emergencies, it reduces the strain on emergency services and allows them to focus on those most in need. Let's work together to build a more resilient community where everyone feels safe and supported. For more preparedness tips and information, visit our website.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE 2025

The County's Hazard Mitigation Plan is currently being updated for approval in 2025. The County will conduct a Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) to identify natural hazards and associated risks and vulnerabilities. We encourage residents to get involved by:

- Attending virtual public meetings and in-person outreach events to learn about the mitigation planning process and provide input.
- Participating in our survey ([English](#) / [Spanish](#)) and providing feedback to help identify hazards and prioritize mitigation strategies.
- [Signing up for email updates](#) about upcoming events.
- Staying informed about hazards in your area and educating others about the importance of mitigation planning by following us on [social media](#).

For any other questions or concerns, email hazardmitigationupdate2025@aacounty.org.

HERRICANE CAMP



In coordination with the Anne Arundel Community College (AACC), the City of Annapolis OEM, and the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management (I-DIEM), we hosted a free summer camp program called HERricane. The week-long camp encouraged 28 young women in high school and college to explore careers in emergency management. This unique program offered participants the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities, interactive workshops, and field trips led by industry professionals.

WEATHER THE STORM



The heat and humidity of summer months bring frequent severe weather, along with threats of tropical storms and hurricanes. Our office offers a variety of free training and preparedness presentations to businesses, community groups, and individuals to help prepare for severe weather. Our “Weathering the Storm” presentation discusses heat illness, severe thunderstorms, floods, tornadoes, tropical storms, and hurricanes. Our “Hurricane Preparedness” presentation focuses on the formation and impacts of hurricanes and what steps you can take before, during, and after these severe storms. Both presentations can be offered in-person or virtually, in English or Spanish. To request a presentation visit [our website](#) or email oemoutreach@aacounty.org.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE

Training is an important part of emergency management, but that doesn't mean it can't be fun. Our Training and Exercise (T&E) Unit has been hosting games for our partners including CyberReady and Extreme Event to help prepare for different emergency scenarios. CyberReady is a multi-board game where teams have to protect their sector of an imaginary city from cyber attacks. Extreme Event is a community resilience game where small groups must collaborate to save their imaginary city from a specific hazard.



The T&E Unit facilitated CyberReady in July for our staff and another session for our partners from the Maryland Department of Information Technology, the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, and Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management.



The T&E Unit also facilitated Extreme Event at the HERricane camp, and the young ladies were engaged and interested in making their imaginary community more resilient. What hazard did they face? A hurricane, of course!

If your organization or group of at least 24 people would like to play one of these games, email training.oem@aacounty.org, and we would be happy to facilitate a session for you.

OEM HOSTS SHADOW DAY CONTEST WINNERS



This April, OEM hosted the winners of our 3rd Annual Shadow Day Contest. Our Shadow Day contest is an opportunity for Anne Arundel County high school students to use their creativity and submit public service announcement videos informing people about the importance of emergency preparedness. Winners of this year's contest were from Crofton High School and spent the morning at our Emergency Operations Center interacting with our staff to learn more about emergency management, tour the facility, and test their disaster mitigation skills.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: STEPHANIE ARNDT



Stephanie Arndt joined our office in 2021 as our Management Assistant. In this position, Stephanie manages the office budget, purchasing, inventory, and logistics for the office. She is the backbone of our team, handling everything from scheduling and correspondence to problem-solving and office management. Without her incredible organizational skills and dedication, we simply couldn't function at our best.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR KIDS



Emergencies can be scary, but the more you know about them, the less scary they'll be. In the event of a disaster, children who know what to do are less likely to panic and more likely to stay safe. Teaching children about disasters can significantly reduce their fear and anxiety. Our office has a variety of ways to help teach children about emergencies. Check out our [Kid's Corner](#) or our [YouTube channel](#) for resources and videos. You can also attend one of our Emergency Preparedness Story Times at your local library. Just follow us on social media to see when the next reading will be.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION



Our office supports the Anne Arundel County Homeless Coalition as part of the Coalition Training Subcommittee. In June, we offered a "Surviving the Weather" presentation to the Arundel House of Hope Resource Center clients and staff. This was an amazing opportunity to engage in an emergency preparedness discussion with Anne Arundel County residents experiencing homelessness. The exchange was lively and both groups learned a lot from one another about preparing for severe weather through lived experience. Any organization seeking a severe weather preparedness presentation, contact oemoutreach@aaacounty.org.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

ALL EMERGENCIES: CALL 9-1-1

**POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY)
410-222-8050**

**FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)
410-222-8300**

**BGE POWER OUTAGES
877-778-2222**

**AGING & DISABILITIES
410-222-4257**

**ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL
410-222-8900**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
& CONSTITUENT SERVICES
410-222-1785**

**CRISIS WARM LINE
410-768-5522**

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT
410-222-7095**

**HEALTH/FOOD WARM LINE
410-222-FOOD (3663)**

**INSPECTIONS & PERMITS
410-222-7790**

**OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION
410-222-0022**

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS
410-222-5000**

**PUBLIC WORKS (UTILITIES)
410-222-8400**

**PUBLIC WORKS (ROADS)
410-222-6120**

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE
410-222-1571**

**SOCIAL SERVICES
410-269-8400**

Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management



**Sign up for emergency notifications at:
<https://alertannearundel.civicready.com/>**

A graphic for CivicReady notifications. It features a smartphone displaying "CIVICREADY" on a wooden surface. Text on the left says "Receive notifications by" followed by a bulleted list: "Call", "Email", "Text", and "And more". A "SIGN UP NOW" button is at the bottom left. On the right, it says "For one-step notifications SIGN UP TODAY. Get local news and alerts instantly." and the "CIVICREADY" logo.

Social Media Handles



Facebook: Anne Arundel County
Office of Emergency Management



X: aaco_oem



Instagram: annearundel_oem



Nextdoor: Anne Arundel County
Office of Emergency Management



YouTube: Anne Arundel County Office
of Emergency Management